

CSF Slippage/Expenditure Brought Forward Items

Text for 2003/04 Capital Monitor: April 2003 to December 2003

1. **EXTERNALLY FUNDED SCHEMES (BASIC NEED)**

The following text sets out why the a number of Basic Need allocations awarded to the authority over the last three years have still to be assigned to specific capital projects. Any proposals requiring member approval will be brought forward to Cabinet.

1.1 **BASIC NEED 2002/03**

1.1.1 **Harpenden and St Albans Secondaries – unallocated £1,050,000**

Pressure for places from within the priority area is continuing to increase in Harpenden but not in St Albans following the introduction of the new admission rules. The Authority has submitted a Targeted Capital bid to the DfES to expand provision in Harpenden but the outcome will not be known until the end of January or the beginning of February 2004. It would not be appropriate to allocate any of the Harpenden/St Albans “basic need” until it is clear whether other funding will be available to provide the necessary additional accommodation.

1.1.2 **Stevenage Secondaries – unallocated £970,000**

The Authority has submitted a bid for funding to the DfES under the new programme “Building Schools for the Future”. The outcome of that bid will be known in early February 2004 if we are to receive funding in 2005/06. However, if it is not funded in 2005/06 it is possible that it could be approved for 2006/07. The outcome for that will be announced in March 2004 so it may not be sensible to allocate the £970,000 at least until after the March announcement.

1.2 **BASIC NEED 2001/02**

1.2.1 **Bushey Primaries – unallocated £250,000**

There was initially £490,000 in this allocation but £240,000 was spent two years ago at Little Reddings Primary School to provide 2 additional classrooms. This enabled the school to raise its admission limit from 51 to 60 and thus made it much easier to deliver the Key Stage 1 pledge (no infant child should be in a class of more than 30).

There is a Bushey primary review scheduled for 2005 and it is proposed to allocate the remainder of the “basic need” to support that review.

1.1.2 **St Albans Secondaries – unallocated £260,000**

This allocation may be needed to support the expansion of places in Harpenden and therefore it is important to wait for the DfES announcement on successful bids for ‘Targeted Capital’ (early February 2004) before deciding where to use the £260,000.

1.2.3 Sandon Primary – unallocated £100,000

This allocation could be spent anywhere in the area and because at the present time there is greater pressure for places at one of the other local villages the allocation may be used there to fund the additional accommodation.

1.3 BASIC NEED 2000/01

1.3.1 South West Herts – unallocated £1,100,000

This allocation was initially well over £2m. A significant amount was spent at Queens School to provide additional places on the Bushey side of Watford and at the same time the Authority began negotiations with Rickmansworth School (Foundation) to create more places. However, Rickmansworth School eventually decided that there was not sufficient funding available to enable them to increase capacity by a form of entry.

The Authority is now in discussion with St Clement Danes School to see if they could use the “basic need” and some additional DfES funding to take an extra form of entry. Until these discussions are concluded (and they involve feasibility studies to cost the necessary works) it is not possible to allocate the remaining “basic need”.

2. EXTERNALLY FUNDED SCHEMES (NDS MODERNISATION FUND)

The two-year £11.3 million Modernisation programme (including £1.1 million of Condition grant) is forecasting slippage totalling £2,290,000 against the following four schemes:

2.1.1 Barnwell – slippage £540,000

This scheme has been put on hold whilst further discussions take place concerning secondary provision in Stevenage and to prepare a bid for “Building Schools for the Future” funding, which was submitted to the DfES at the end of October. The outcome of this bid should be known early in February.

2.1.2 Hemel Hempsted Vlth Form – slippage £500,000

Poor ground conditions have led to additional costs and delays with this scheme and but the contractors have now started on site (February 2004).

2.1.3 Queens – slippage £500,000

This scheme was to be part-funded by sponsorship arranged by the school but the external sponsor pulled out causing delays whilst the scheme is re-worked and a revised financing package put together, work on site will not now commence before 2004/05.

2.1.4 Broxbourne – slippage £750,000

This scheme has been delayed whilst additional funds from the 2004/05 capital programme are bid for, if this is approved then it is expected that work will begin on site in summer 2004.

3. **EXTERNALLY FUNDED SCHEMES (SCHOOLS ACCESS INITIATIVE) - slippage £1,600,000**

£1,600,000 of slippage is being reported for the first time this year. This funding is all allocated to a range of projects at schools with access needs prioritised on the basis of asset management plan data. The delay is because of a shortage of building surveyors, needed by contractors and consultants, to oversee the work. The current programme of access improvements is spread over three years and all projects, including those that have slipped, will be completed by the end of 2004/05.

4. **COUNTY FUNDED SCHEMES**

4.1. **2003/04 Learning Support Units – slippage £350,000**

Capital works have been completed at six of the LSUs. The remaining works, all of which are slightly larger scale building projects than the earlier ones, are expected to be completed in the first half of 2004/05.

4.2 **2002/03 Heathcote Secondary – slippage £465,000**

This scheme has been put on hold to enable further discussions to take place concerning secondary provision in Stevenage and to prepare a bid for “Building Schools for the Future funding”, which was submitted to the DfES at the end of October. The outcome of this bid should be known early in February.

4.3 **2002/03 - savings/underspend £175,000**

Savings totalling £175,000 have been offered up, consisting of the £100,000 allocation for pump-priming work to resolve the secondary places issues in Harpenden and £75,000 for Park ESC scheme which had been delayed to pursue a more comprehensive review of ESC accommodation.

4.4 **2001/02 Bowmansgreen – expenditure brought forward (£363,000)**

The Bowmansgreen scheme was brought forward last year because of the expected development of the former Napsbury Hospital site for housing. The school will increase from an intake of 51 per year to 60 (2FE) when the houses are built (using Section 106 funding from the developer) and it was necessary to carry out these improvement works to replace the five mobile classrooms (“phase one” which has now been completed) ahead of the expansion works.

5. **ANNUAL PROVISIONS – savings/underspend £848,000**

Savings totalling £848,000 have been found from uncommitted annual provisions schemes for Minor Works, Health & Safety, Furniture & Equipment and School Meals equipment and offered up to help offset the overall 2003/04 CSF revenue budget overspend position.

TOTAL VARIANCES DESCRIBED IN TEXT ABOVE	£9,095,000
Other Variances of less than £50k each	£105,000
TOTAL VARIANCE REPORTED	£9,200,000